

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
MCE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 IO-13 COME-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 077779

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, AG, MR, FR, SP

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN USE OF AMERICAN ARMS

REF: ROME 19079 (NOTAL) STATE 69811

1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, DISCUSSIONS DURING RECENT VISIT OF
FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA DID NOT COMPLETELY RESOLVE
PROBLEM CONCERNING MOROCCAN USE OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE
IN SAHARA. MOROCCANS CONTINUE INSIST THAT PORTION OF
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SAHARA THEY HAVE "RECOVERED" IS SOVEREIGN MOROCCAN
TERRITORY AND THEREFORE WITHIN SCOPE OF U.S.-MOROCCAN
BILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER IN
ASSURING DEPTOFFS MARCH 14 THAT MOROCCO WOULD NOT EMPLOY
IN SAHARA MILIARY EQUIPMENT HEREAFTER RECEIVED FROM USG
UNDER1979 FMS PROGRAM AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN INDICA ED
MOROCCANS MAY BE PREPARED TO RESPECT IN PRACTICE U.S.

INTERPRETATION OF THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE BILATERAL.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, BENGELLOUN'S ASSURANCE DOES NOT ENCOMPASS

(1) FMS EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN MOROCCAN INVENTORIES, AND

(2) FUTURE COMMERCIAL SALES OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT UNDER MUNITIONS CONTROL PROCEDURES. WITH RESPECT FMS EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED BY MOROCCO, DEPARTMENT IS HOPEFUL THAT MOROCCANS SOON WILL COMPLY WITH U.S. REQUEST

THAT F-5 AIRCRAFT BE QUIETLY WITHDRAWN FROM SAHARA AND MAURITANIA, THUS ELIMINATING THIS ISSUE AS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. WITH RESPECT COMMERCIAL SALES HOWEVER, BECAUSE "SIGNIFICANT" MUNITIONS LIST SALES SOON WILL BE SUBJECT TO SAME END-USE RESTRICTIONS INCORPORATED IN BILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, IT IS GOING TO BE NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT ARMS PURCHASED UNDER COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE USED ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. INTERPRETATION OF BILATERAL ACCORD.

3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES GOM WILL NOT PUBLICLY COMPROMISE ITS POSITION THAT KINGDOM OF MOROCCO INCLUDES "RECOVERED" PORTION OF SAHARA. FOR THAT REASON, DEPARTMENT HAS REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT U.S. ARMS VENDORS BE REQUIRED IN APPLYING FOR MUNITIONS CONTROL EXPORT LICENSES TO PRESENT SPECIFIC WRITTEN MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES THAT ARMS SUBJECT TO SALE WILL NOT BE USED

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IN SAHARA. (FYI - IT ALREADY IS ROUTINE PRACTICE TO HAVE COMPANIES OBTAIN WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT SELL OR TRANSFER EQUIPMENT TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT USG PERMISSION. SUCH ASSURANCES ARE PROVIDED BY COMPANY TO USG AT TIME OF APPLYING FOR EXPORT LICENSE. END FYI). DEPARTMENT PREFERS SEEK SPECIFICATION OF GENERAL END-USE ASSURANCES THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY AND SUGGESTS AMBASSADOR TRY TO OBTAIN SUCH ASSURANCES FROM FOREIGN MINISTER OR OTHER AUTHORITATIVE MOROCCAN OFFICIAL. TO ASSIST EMBASSY IN THIS EFFORT, MAY BE USEFUL INFORM MOROCCANS THAT ABSENCE OF END USE ASSURANCES CURRENTLY BLOCKING U.S. APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF POSSIBLE SALES OF APC'S BY BOTH U.S. AND ITALIAN SUPPLIERS. VANCE

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